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### **PATENT CLAIMS**

1. A method for real time maintenance of database contents, in particular of files of a relational database, in particular DB2,

- wherein the status of database content is determined using a database-integrated status monitor,
- wherein status data of the determined statuses is output in real time using said database-integrated status monitor,
- wherein said output status data is analyzed and compared with comparison data, and
- wherein maintenance functions are mostly activated directly following a positive compare result.

2. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the comparison of status data with status threshold values is conducted, wherein said status threshold values represent data statuses indicating an execution of the maintenance functions for the respective database contents.

3. The method of claim 2, characterized in that said status threshold values for different database content and/or groups of database content and/or different maintenance functions are adjusted respectively.

4. The method of claim 2, characterized in that at least one rigid status threshold value is set, that at least one soft status threshold value is set, that the maintenance function is activated when the soft status threshold value is reached and further criteria apply, and that the maintenance function is activated immediately when the rigid status threshold value is reached.

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5. The method of claim 1 , characterized in that restrictions related to the system, time, data and/or application are defined for the execution of maintenance functions in which an immediate execution of a maintenance function is suppressed at least temporarily.

6. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the real time activation of the maintenance functions causes direct execution, its transfer to a job scheduler, or a call of database utilities .

7. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the executed maintenance functions are logged and a maintenance log is produced.

8. A device, set up to execute a method according to claim 1,  
- with a database unit for the operation of a relational database,  
- wherein said database unit comprises maintenance means for executing maintenance functions, and  
- monitoring means for monitoring and reading out status data about the status of database content stored in said database unit,  
- with a monitoring unit for monitoring said output status data,  
- wherein said monitoring unit comprises means for analyzing status data and for comparing status data with comparison data, and  
- wherein said monitoring unit comprises output means for directly outputting instruction for the activation of said maintenance means for executing a maintenance utility.

9. A computer program with an implementation of a method of claim 1 for a computer.

10. A computer program product with a computer program of claim 9 or with instructions for executing a method of claim 1.